

REMARKS

Reconsideration of all grounds of objection and rejection, and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested in light of the above amendment and the following remarks.

At the outset, Applicants note with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that claims 1-6 are allowed.

Summary of the Rejections:

- (1) The Examiner objects to Fig. 1, requiring the legend of "Prior Art" to be amended on same.
- (2) The Abstract of the Disclosure is objected to because it exceeds 150 words.
- (3) Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Castellano (U.S. 6,690,670).
- (4) Claims 8-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Castellano as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Rich (U.S. 6,452,927).
- (5) Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of Castellano and Rich as applied to claim 9, and further in view of Holden et al. (U.S. 6,147,997, hereafter "Holden").
- (6) Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Castellano, as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Chung et al. (U.S. 6,487,203 herein after "Chung").

Applicants Traversal:

Applicants have shortened the Abstract of the Disclosure to less than 150 words, and have enclosed herewith a proposed change to Fig. 1, identifying same as "Prior Art."

Claim 7 has been amended to recite in part that:

wherein the first bandwidth control structure serializes a cell received from a subscriber into clock and data bits, and the second bandwidth control structure receives the serialized clock and data bits, makes a serial to parallel conversion into a word unit for data exchange.

Applicants respectfully submit that Castellano, Rich, Holden, Chung, or any combination thereof is completely silent with regard to the first bandwidth structure serializing a cell received from a subscriber into clock and data bits, and the second bandwidth structure receiving the serialized clock and data bits, and making a serial to parallel conversion into a word unit for data exchange. It is respectfully submitted that for at least the above reason, claim 7 is patentable, and all claims dependent therefrom (8-11) are also patentable at least for their dependency on base claim 7. None of the references, alone or in combination disclose, suggest, or provide motivation to the artisan to serial the data into clock and data bits, have them read, and then convert them back to parallel into a word unit for data exchange.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection are respectfully requested.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the instant claims are patentable. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that there are any issues which may be best resolved by telephone, please contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below. If there are any fees due and owing, please charge Applicants Deposit Account on file 502-507.

Date: 6/11/04

Respectfully submitted,



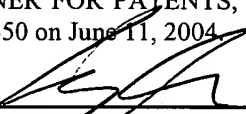
Steve Cha
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 44,069

CHA & REITER
210 Route 4 East, #103
Paramus, New Jersey 07652
(201) 226-9245
(201) 226-9246 (Fax)

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on June 11, 2004.

Steven Cha, Reg. No. 44,069
(Name of Registered Representative)



(Signature and Date)